

Environmental Services

The Housekeeping, Laundry and Pest Control Departments at Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute are committed to providing an effective and efficient program to insure a clean, safe, pleasant and functional environment for both the hospital population and personnel. We accomplish this through well trained team members that are dedicated to excellent service and providing an environment that will be beneficial in the recovery of our patients.

The Housekeeping team members are responsible for the daily cleaning of all patient care areas which include patient bedrooms, bathrooms, tub rooms, exam rooms, mopping floors, daily waste removal, pickup of soiled linen, etc. Most office cleaning is done on a weekly basis. Our team members are cross-trained to work on numerous units/areas and take pride in doing their jobs well.

Laundry

Our Laundry staff is responsible for washing patient personal laundry from various areas at our on site laundry facility. They also receive our clean linen processed from the contract laundry and restock all areas to insure ample supplies are in each area for use.

Our team leaders (Linda Havens and Eva Wagner) are here to supervise the housekeeping and laundry processes in conjunction with the Environmental Services Director (Nathan Shelton) and help whenever needed to insure training, standards, frequencies of cleaning and quality is being maintained at or above expectations.

Pest Control Services

Our licensed exterminator (James Parks) is responsible for maintaining an effective and efficient pest control program to insure a clean, safe, pleasant and vector free environment. His program is designed to effectively control insects and rodents in order to maintain a sanitary environment and prevent cross-infection due to disease causing organisms carried by these vectors. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services require anyone who applies pesticide to be a certified pesticide applicator. James is authorized in the following categories:

- 3A - Ornamental Pest Control (indoors and outdoors)
- 3B - Turf Pest Control
- 7A - General Pest Control (including food service pest control)
- 7B - Wood Destroying Pest Control

Pest Control Operators use the IPM (Integrated Pest Management) to insure the proper technique with the least amount of chemical necessary to complete the task. Issues that need to be considered before treatment is rendered are Genetic Resistance, Biological Controls, Culture Controls, Mechanical Controls,

Sanitation Controls and then Chemical Controls. Having a licensed pest control operator helps to insure alternatives are considered, our hospital environment is as pest free as possible and safe for patient and personnel.

Special Projects

Special projects are housekeeping task that are completed on a periodic basis, such as refinishing floor, extracting carpets, washing wall and washing windows (inside and out). These type of projects are usually very time consuming and almost always causes other departments to change their routines due to having to close off areas to be completed. Communication is essential in planning and completing projects, in these situations it takes staff in these areas working together to get the job done safely, quickly and to minimize the disruption to our patients. Our goal is to get in and out quickly, but it is very important that we do it correctly. It takes a lot less time to do it right the first time.

Each member of the Environmental Services team has an important role in meeting the mission and vision of SWVMHI and do so through providing and maintaining the cleanliness and sanitation of our facility whether it is through cleaning, processing laundry or controlling pest. It is with each function working together that excellence is achieved.

Please remember that housekeeping is everyone's responsibility, if you drop it, pick it up, if you spill it, mop it up, if it's full, empty it and if you need assistance, give us a call. The following personnel can be reached at the numbers listed:

- Nathan Shelton, Environmental Services Director extension 551 or 229
- Eva Wagner, Housekeeping lead Worker extension 552
- Linda Havens, Housekeeping Lead Worker extension 552
- James Parks, Exterminator/Pest Control extension 543
- Sandy Mathena, Program Support Tech
Envirn. Serv./Security/Materials Mngmt. Extension 229

Every member of every department makes a significant impact on the facility on a daily basis, the better we work together as a facility the greater the impact we can have for our hospital and the recovery of our patients.

Your Environmental Services Department